

To whom it may concern:

I have lived in the city of Norwalk for the past 10 years.

Bill **HB5293** is being introduced for the fourth consecutive legislative session in Connecticut and I am confident it will continue to have strong support.

Circuses and shows that travel with animals **cannot help but deny animals of the five basic freedoms they should be entitled to**; freedom from hunger and thirst; freedom from discomfort; freedom from pain, injury or disease; freedom to express natural behaviors and freedom from fear and distress.

Both **Stamford** and **Bridgeport** have municipal bans preventing circuses from performing in their cities. Bridgeport, the home of PT Barnum, enacted a circus ban as of November 5, 2018. In 2020 **Danbury** residents signed a petition to ban circuses from coming to Danbury. It was very disappointing that the city didn't support the ban despite the outcry from the public, but it was amazing that the [Danbury Ice Arena](#) did listen to the public and agreed not to host circuses going forward!

Aside from the temperature of the state, the nation also agrees that circuses that use animals are archaic and cruel. There is a federal bill in the works. It is called [TEAPSPA](#) (Traveling with Exotic Animals Public Safety & Protection Act). It might be important for you to know that **Senator Blumenthal, US Congresswoman Jahana Hayes, US Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro & US Congressman Jim Himes** all have supported this bill to date. I tell you this because it is indicative of the times. People across the nation do not support this archaic form of entertainment at the expense of innocent wildlife. However, we cannot wait for the Federal Bill we need to join other states and lead the charge. There are currently 96 partial or full bans on performing animals in jurisdictions in the US, in 32 states. NJ and Hawaii have passed statewide bans and MA, CA & PA have all introduced similar legislation. A [comprehensive list](#) of local bans and restrictions on performing animals in the United States.

Please show your support for HB5293 this session.

I appreciate your consideration,

Marion Zinowski

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